

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD - RI
DECEMBER 8, 2005 MEETING**

MINUTES

Attendance

Board Members (*denotes absent)

Mario Bueno
Armeather Gibbs*
Joseph MarcAurele
Michael McMahon
Sharon Moylan
George Nee
Robert Paniccia
Martin Trueb
Deborah Wilson

Mia Caetano
Paul MacDonald*
William McGowan
Brandon Melton
Robert Nangle
Adelita Orefice
Lorna Ricci*
Jack Warner

Staff: M. Koback, M. McGetrick, L. Del Rossi, M. McDowell, V. Lombardi

Guests: J. Titzel, K. Bergstrom, H. Shelton, P. Harden, S. Kitchin, B. Ricci, J. Uvin, J. Glover

DLT Staff: S. Powell, J. O'Hare, D. Miller, M. Demers, D. Treglia, K. Partington, J. Severance, B. Langlais, S. Petrarca, B. Irish

Place: Department of Labor and Training, 1511 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston

Time: With a quorum present, Chairman MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 8:11 AM

Chair MarcAurele asked M. McMahon to report on the Quonset Electric Boat situation. M. McMahon stated because of a significant contract coming to the end of its life and a repositioning of some of the repair work, led to a need to have a reduction in the workforce. John Casey's statement at a Legislative Briefing Breakfast in Groton explained that the worst case implications for Rhode Island will be the loss of 500 to 600 positions. Reading the headlines, one would think 600 people would be laid off before Christmas, which is not true. There will be a reduction over the next 12 months in head count. Quonset has a mature workforce, with about 20 retirements each month. If you take the run rate of normal retirement which over the 12 month period is 240, and if you take some ability to reallocate overhead, Rhode Island really isn't at risk for 600 jobs. It could be anywhere from 100 to 300 jobs lost.

Chair MarcAurele reiterated that the ultimate goal for this Board is to help, from a strategic perspective, to do some things that are more far reaching than simply allocating funds. He then turned the meeting over to A. Orefice for the Executive Director's Report. Ms. Orefice reported on the Governor's Workforce Cabinet, stating that they are in the process of organizing around implementing workforce policies and initiatives developed by the Governor's Workforce Board. She reported that the U.S. Department of Labor has issued a grant solicitation called Workforce Innovations for Regional Economic Development in the amount of \$5 million a year for three years. She also reported on the Department's Rapid Response Program for people facing lay offs, and how they are working on the Electric Boat issue with Connecticut.

Reporting on the Strategic Investments Committee, Chair MarcAurele directed the Board's attention to a three page document detailing the makeup of the Job Development Fund, including both internal operational funds and funds available for initiatives. Chair MarcAurele reviewed the budget items and indicated that of the \$8.2 million of availability, \$1.8 million is allocated within the State's budget, leaving a balance of approximately \$6.8 million. Of this balance, the Committee recommends that \$5 million be allocated to the proposed funding

priorities. The difference is comprised of internal operational and administrative costs. He stated that as the Committee worked through the priorities, consideration was given to past commitments and other areas of potential interest. This budget is just a starting point and will provide for flexibility as the Board and the individual committees move forward.

Chair MarcAurele motioned to increase the Workforce Expansion category to a total of \$1.35 million.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve, B. Melton seconded. The motion passed.

G. Nee stated that it would be helpful if staff could develop a list of the Board's ongoing commitments.

S. Moylan, Chair of the Governance Task Team reported on the meeting held in November. The members discussed the appointment of a Vice Chair subject to the bylaws once adopted by the Board. They discussed the process to hire an Executive Director by the Chairperson and the Director of DLT with a selection committee that would include some Board members. The Executive Committee membership would be subject to the bylaws. Standing Committees would include: Executive Committee; Planning/Evaluation Committee to oversee the implementation of and collaboration among various workforce development plans and policies; Audit Committee which could be part of the Planning/Evaluation Committee or an ad-hoc committee convened as needed; and a Youth Development Committee. Draft bylaws were developed after researching those used by other state boards throughout the country and included language from the Executive Order, HRIC legislation and other relevant Rhode Island laws. The draft bylaws will be sent to all members for comments which will be addressed at the next Governance Meeting.

B. McGowan, Chair of the netWORKri Restructuring Task Team was asked to report on the two meetings held to-date. At their November meeting, members reviewed information regarding the One-Stop Centers. Some of the key points discussed included: The netWORKri System was designed and implemented in 1998 using a \$4 million grant from USDOL. USDOL provided four principles to guide implementation and service delivery: universality, seamless integration, customer choice and accountability. Six centers were opened by 2000 offering state of the art resources, computers and technology. It was assumed that all partners mandated by the Workforce Investment Act would participate in the One-Stop Career Centers, thus contributing to the cost of operating the One-Stop Centers, but that has not happened resulting in limited partner investment. The members also discussed three options that include closing and/or refocusing the work of some One-Stop centers. In addition members discussed possible ways to increase funds to operate the One-Stop System. The members agreed that netWORKri should be the "primary deliverer of workforce development services" for state agencies, and plan to make this one of its recommendations.

At the December meeting, members conducted an in-depth review of the information requested by them at their previous meeting which included: A list of mandated One-Stop Partners as prescribed by the Workforce Investment Act; netWORKri Operational Reports and demographics for each Career Center. The members also reviewed the following performance reports: Workforce Investment Act (WIA): Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth; Trade; Wagner-Peyser; and Veterans. Finally they looked at the cities and towns served by each center and the cost to operate the netWORKri System.

M. Caetano, Chair of the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Consolidation Task Team reported on the meeting held on December 5th. The goal of the task force is to explore possible options for consolidating the two local WIBs, Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island and

Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston to reduce duplication of structures, systems to increase training funds available to the public. The members discussed the consolidation of administrative and programmatic funds, maintaining local government and business involvement. There was also discussion on the legal issues impacting the consolidation issues. It was recommended that the team meet with the Mayor of Providence between now and their next meeting on January 9th.

J. Warner, Chair of the Adult Education and Literacy Task Team reported on the meeting held on November 16th. Four priorities were identified in terms of creating a system that links adult literacy, K-12, post-secondary education, workforce development and economic development. The priorities are: Content Standards and Professional Development; Integration of Adult Basic Education and Workforce Development; Participant-level Management Information System; and Data Sharing Agreements. The team members discussed the key recommendations of the Governor's Adult Literacy Task Force "Building Critical Links" report and progress made to date: established the Office of Adult Education which is housed at the RI Department of Education; administered a Request for Proposal (RFP) for all adult education funding. \$3.85 million has been awarded to 23 providers for 37 projects. Combined funding was from federal and state sources.

A statewide professional development system model has been developed with plans to be operational by the 4th quarter of FY06. There is also a plan to develop policy for content standards by the 4th quarter of FY06. An RFP is scheduled to be issued to purchase a system to improve availability and quality of data. Team members received the "Building Critical Links" report along with other reading material. They were asked to review the materials, determine how all components contribute to a larger system, identify gaps and make recommendations for improvements.

B Melton, Chair of the Youth Strategies Task Team reported on the meeting held on November 4th. The goal of this task team is to design intentional demand-driven skill and career development initiatives to serve the youth of Rhode Island. Three areas members focused on included: increase youth employment opportunities and experiences; broaden apprenticeship programs; and develop broad-based mutually supportive public and private sector partnerships (especially between employers and education providers). The next meeting in December will focus on implementing youth employment activities for the summer of 2006.

A motion was entered to approved the minutes of the October 6, 2005 Governor's Workforce Board meeting.

VOTE: M. Trueb moved to approve. J. Warner seconded. All approved.

In closing, Chair J. MarcAurele informed the board that L. Ricci has agreed to represent the Board as a member of the Rhode Island Assisted Technology Project formed to provide assisted technology to people with disabilities.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha McDowell